THE MAKING OF A TRADE UNION

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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[*The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.*]

Notes and News.

The Lords and Electoral Reform.

In moving, in the House of Lords, the second reading of the Parliament and Local Elections Bill, which prolongs the life of the present Parliament, Lord Curzon spoke of the impossibility of having a general election at the present time. He added that if the Bill had been accompanied by one making special provision for a new register, it would have been impossible to avoid dealing with many other questions. The Government had had to choose between the alternatives of framing a register themselves and an attempt to pass a Bill framed on the lines of the Speaker's Conference. He had seen the draft of this Bill, which contained in effect the whole of the resolutions of the Conference; but a distinction would be drawn—and he thought rightly so—between certain of those proposals and the bulk of the findings of that Committee. It was thought that proportional representation and Women's Suffrage stood on a somewhat different footing from other findings of the Committee. Both questions were likely to lead to so much controversy that it would be unfair for the Government to put pressure on members of either House in regard to them. Therefore, though the Government would take charge of the Bill in both Houses, members would be at liberty to vote as they pleased on both these proposals.

With regard to a register, he imagined that in the next two or three months the House of Commons would record its opinion on the Bill to which he had referred. They would then know if there was any inclination in another place to pass it into law. Supposing it passed the Commons, and came to their Lordships' House, let it be remembered that it contained proposals relating to the register, and as soon as it passed into law, steps must be taken to call that register into being. It might be impossible to complete that operation during the seven months, but if the Bill were thrown out in either House and the proposals for dealing with the register fell to the ground, it would obviously be the duty of the Government to do what they attempted to do last year—to set up a special register on which it would be their duty to take the opinion of Parliament.

Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill is, states *The Manchester Guardian*, "to be altered almost out of existence by the Government." "The clause was introduced rather as a surprise while the Bill was in Grand Committee, and it provides that any girl under eighteen may be committed to a home until she is nineteen if she is convicted before any court, which means in practice by a police magistrate, of loitering or importuning for the purposes of prostitution or solicitation, or of any offence under the Vagrancy Act, of wandering in the public street or public highway, and behaving in a riotous or indecent manner, or generally of any offence under the Criminal Law Amendment Bill." We publish on page 24 a protest by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene against this clause, and a letter signed by Mrs. Fawcett on behalf of the Women's Interests Committee of the N.U.W.S.S., and by Mrs. C. M. Wilson on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Fabian Women's Group appeared in our last issue. Other women's organisations have also protested.

The Need for a Commission of Enquiry.

The discussions on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill having shown that, though the existing laws are not satisfactory, there is no general agreement as to what amendments are required, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has passed a resolution calling for the appointment of a Commission to enquire:—

1. How far the present methods of prisons, courts, and police help or hinder such restoration;
2. How the laws and their administration can be improved;
3. Whether the co-operation of voluntary, educational, and reformative agencies can be more largely utilised.

National Education.

Mr. H. A. L. Fisher's long-expected statement on the Education Estimates was made on April 19th and was received with warm approval in the House. His speech not only contained a clear pronouncement upon the state of our present national system of education—"if it can be called national, and if it can be called a system"—but suggested schemes for the future which would mean at least some progress towards real educational reform. Mr. Fisher pointed out that one of the most immediate and significant results of the increased prosperity of the working classes during the war has been the increase in the number of pupils entering our secondary schools, and the length of their stay in those schools. "The secondary schools," he added, "are the key of the situation." At present a very small proportion of the population enter secondary schools at all, and of these very few are able to stay the full period. The fees are low, and there are a great number of free places for children from the elementary schools; but even so, it has been impossible hitherto to keep the majority of the children in the school up to the age of sixteen. "How," Mr. Fisher asked, "can there be any suitable corporate life, any completely effective scheme of education, under conditions so prejudicial as those?"

The Status of Teachers.

Another serious defect of our system is the position of the teacher. Both in elementary and secondary schools, teachers are paid at rates which are far too low. "The first condition of educational advance is that we should learn to pay our teachers better, and the only certain way of securing that any extra money available for elementary and secondary education should go into the pockets of the teacher is for the State to pay the teachers direct." But, if the control of teaching and its payment were

entirely withdrawn from the local authorities, there would be danger of an abrupt decline in the local interest in education, and Mr. Fisher therefore asked for an additional grant of £3,420,000 for elementary education, "framed upon a principle which will give a direct interest to the local authorities to enact a liberal salary scale."

Social Fusion in Secondary Schools.

With regard to secondary schools, the two chief needs were summed up in one sentence. "Somehow or other we must attract able men into this branch of the profession and provide them with a sufficient number of pupils able to receive a full secondary education." The first reform in the scheme of finance for secondary education is to be a better system of maintenance allowances. This obviously will be an important advance if it really secures that greater degree of "social fusion" in secondary schools for which Mr. Fisher hopes. "After all," he said, "it is important that in our secondary schools, the son" (and, we might add, the daughter) "of the manufacturer, the son of the foreman, and the son of the workman should be educated side by side.

The Waste of Human Capital.

In outlining his plans for the future, Mr. Fisher spoke of the importance of developing country schools and of establishing nursery schools for children under five, and of the present inadequate provision for the intellectual, moral, and physical discipline of boys and girls during the period of adolescence. "The country," he pointed out, "does not get the full value out of its elementary system of education, because so much of the training and instruction is subsequently lost; and it does not get the full value out of its higher technical colleges because those who attend their courses have learned little and forgotten much." Schemes for continued education are full of difficulties; but some such scheme must be established if the full advantage is to be reaped from our system of education. "We are told," Mr. Fisher added, "to economise in our expenditure and foodstuffs. I suggest that we should economise in the human capital of the country, which we have too long allowed to run to waste."

The Venereal Diseases Bill.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. Hayes Fisher (Parliamentary Secretary Local Government Board) moved the second reading of the Venereal Diseases Bill, which had come down from the House of Lords. The Bill, he said, was the outcome of a very important Royal Commission, and had the support of the Association of County Councils, the Association of Municipal Corporations, the London County Council, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the National Council which was formed to combat these diseases. The bill was desirable especially to deal with the aftermath of the war, but he asked the House not to jump to the conclusion that there had been any increase in the formidable disease dealt with. So far as figures could be obtained, there was nothing to show that the ratio per thousand in the Army and Navy had in any way increased. There was evidence that the percentage of disease amongst recruits in Germany was five times greater than it was in this country, and that the percentage amongst the German civil population was also very much higher than here. He referred to the importance of setting up local clinics where free treatment should be given on a confidential basis, and also of preventing the supply of quack remedies.

The prohibitive provisions of the bill would apply in local areas by order of the Local Government Board, which would be issued when they were satisfied that proper provision for treatment had been provided. Practice by unqualified persons who professed to be able to cure the disease was most injurious, and should be prevented. This was a matter in which the liberty of the subject should give way to the safety of the State. If the bill were read a second time he would propose to refer it to the same Grand Committee as dealt with the Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

Captain Guest, in supporting the Bill, said he would have liked to hear more about the free institutions which were being set on foot to deal with the disease. The ravages of this disease in the Army were such, as regards men in this country, as to represent the equivalent of a division permanently out of action. This did not take into account the large number that passed through the hospitals in France and the Colonial troops.

Where Women Vote.—II.

In the recent Presidential election the woman voter exploded numerous theories about herself and established a few facts. To the query would she vote if she had the ballot, the West emphatically replied, YES! To the query, would she vote as her husband voted, the West emphatically replied NO! Political parties complain bitterly of the irresponsibility of the woman voter, meaning that women cannot be corralled, moulded into party form, and made to voice their opinions as a unit. They show a maddening independence in scratching a ballot. Republican women have been openly accused of voting for a Democratic President, and Democratic women of deserting to a Republican candidate. And the women do not deny it, they blandly explain that they vote for the best man, irrespective of party.

The Western woman is, perhaps, as busy a person as any woman of the country. Her domestic interests form a bee-hive of industry. The West is a place of homes and intimate family life; so acute is the servant problem, that even wealthy women are often compelled to be their own cooks and bottle-washers. They can handle a vacuum-cleaner with all the skill of an experienced hand. They have children, not in ones and twos, but in the good old-fashioned way of sixes and sevens. There is not the acute line-up between riches and poverty that the East has developed in its millionaires and factory hands. The majority of families are in comfortable circumstances; they live a sane, out-door, busy, healthy existence. The women take their politics as an adjunct of their homes.

The women seem inclined to leave the machinery of government in the hands of the men: what they want is results. They are keen about good schools, well paved streets, sanitary homes, moral and social conditions. Every legislature finds some women at the various capitols, looking after a Bill the women are behind; but the Bill usually deals with a social issue. While the Western women are becoming more keenly interested in, as they grow more familiar with, their municipal and national problems, they are not, according to politicians, showing any great eagerness for political jobs.

Sometimes the women turn a trick on the men in a spirit of good-natured raillery, as in the case of Umatilla, Oregon, where the women plotted over their tea-cups to replace the town councilmen with women. The mayor, Mr. E. E. Starcher, was defeated for re-election by his wife, Mrs. E. E. Starcher, and he didn't seem to mind. He just proceeded to get his desk into shape for the in-coming incumbent, and it isn't even recorded that he gave her any advice. Four councilmen, including the recorder and treasurer, lost their jobs to women. The women were not entirely satisfied with Umatilla; they wanted to try their hand at improvements, and the men were willing.

The spirit of comradeship between men and women of the West is inspiring to an Easterner who has been frightened by the bogey that Suffrage would destroy all those womanly qualities which attract men. In no part of the country do men and women seem so nearly to complement each other as in those sections where they are working out their civic problems together. One finds the Western man even more aggressive in his endorsement of Woman Suffrage than the Western woman.

Becoming weary of aspersions cast upon the fair name of Colorado by anti-Suffragists anxious to prove the failure of Woman Suffrage at any cost, leading men of Denver have issued a statement in which they set forth the truth with regard to the economic condition of the State and credit Woman Suffrage with a big share in conducing to Colorado's health and prosperity. The statement is signed by eighteen of the leading bankers of Denver, and by the heads of the fifteen leading retail establishments, while lawyers, clergymen, the superintendent of public schools, other educators and doctors at the top of their respective professions, are also among the signatories.

President Wilson has become keenly interested in the cause of Woman Suffrage, and seldom lets pass occasion to manifest that interest. When North Dakota passed her Presidential Suffrage Bill, he sent a telegram of congratulation to Mrs. Catt and the National American Woman Suffrage Association, of which she is President.

Work for Our Sick and Wounded.

In view of the appeal which appeared in the daily Press last week for a very large number of new workers for hospitals, and for General Service under the Red Cross, it seems opportune to discuss certain stumbling blocks which are acting as a check to enthusiasm in a splendid cause, the existence of which is shown by the very fact that it should be necessary to make such an appeal, and that it specially includes "those who have already worked for the sick and wounded at any time during the war, and have given it up for other work."

To the majority of women the idea of helping to nurse our soldiers makes a tremendous appeal. Surely, unless some of them were being held back by what they have learnt of the experience of others, there would be a constant stream of recruits to meet the ever-growing needs of our hospitals.

At the beginning of the war hospital work was almost the only form of strenuous whole-time war-work open to women, and the supply of would-be nurses far exceeded the demand. Perhaps a more far-seeing policy, looking to future needs, might have said to the apparently superfluous, "The time will surely come when your services will be needed"; but that was hardly the official policy in those days, and many went away discouraged, and were gradually absorbed by the other forms of war-work which sprang into existence in all directions. By the summer of 1916 the supply of nurses was insufficient to meet the needs of our hugely enlarged Army, and an appeal was made for recruits, with the result that the ranks of the V.A.D. were once more filled. Now, with the beginning of our great offensive in France, the appeal is once more sent out, under conditions which have altered very rapidly even since 1916. Nursing is now only one of many forms of war-work open to women. Munitions and skilled trades have absorbed an enormous number. The land is calling urgently for the young and healthy woman to come and take her part in raising the nation's food-supply. The abilities of well-educated women are finding new outlets in many directions in organisation and secretarial work. Cooking and domestic economy have attained an importance never before accorded to them, and the woman who, unwilling to leave home, devotes her time to catering and cooking for a family of any size on "war-economy" lines, may argue that she is doing the most useful work of which she is capable.

Still, nursing appeals to a side of many women's nature not moved to enthusiasm by farming or office-work, and I believe that the necessary thousands will come forward if they realise how much they are needed—particularly if certain matters which have been acting as deterrents can be put right. The first difficulty which occurs to me is a financial one. In the early stages of the war many women came forward whose means allowed of their giving their services free, and even incurring a good deal of expense besides; but their number was limited, and as the requirements of the Nursing Service grew, it was found necessary to institute the payment of living expenses and a salary of £20 per annum. The pay now offered is slightly higher than it was at first, but it is still very small—£20 per annum for the first seven months, rising by amounts of £2 10s. half-yearly up to £30 for those who agree to serve for as long as required. There is an allowance of £5 per annum for upkeep of uniform, but nothing is said about a preliminary grant towards the cost of uniform and outfit. Such a grant should certainly be made. An outfit containing all the things mentioned in the list with which every V.A.D. selected for foreign service is supplied, would cost considerably more than her first year's salary—a serious matter to many women in these days of reduced incomes and rising prices.

A woman whose financial position does not compel her to take the rate of pay into consideration, may be guided in her choice of work by the experiences of friends who have already taken up war-work in some form, and here another difficulty is apt to arise. Anyone with the slightest knowledge of hospital and Army ways will be already aware that from the day she begins her life in hospital she will be working under the most rigid discipline, and if she is sensible she will understand the necessity for it. Should she chance to begin her work under a kindly disposed Sister, she may be agreeably surprised by the pleasant and human relationship between herself and her official superior. What she is less likely to have realised is the fact that her doings when "off duty" are regulated by rules of almost Oriental severity. In some commands (for the rules do not seem to be universal) a nurse is liable to be dismissed in disgrace if she is seen walking in the street with an officer, though he may be an old friend, or even a relative. I can hardly suppose that any matron would exact the full penalty in such a case, but that is the letter of the law; and the least frivolously inclined may reasonably resent the imputation conveyed. Where these rules have become known to outsiders, they have undoubtedly lowered the status of nurses. "No smoke without fire," says the knowing person; "those nurses are a funny lot, I fancy."

There is another reason why the relations of some girls are reluctant to see them join the V.A.D., and why some who have already served are urged not to go back. We all realise that in such times as these the sacrifice of health, even of life, may be a necessity for a woman, just as for a man, but we feel entitled to protest against causeless waste in either case. When a hospital is short-staffed, or working at unusually high pressure, no nurse worth her salt will "report sick" unless she is absolutely obliged to do so—her going off duty simply piles her work upon her already over-worked comrades. On the other hand, a hospital should, when not abnormally busy, pay more attention to the health of its nurses than has sometimes been the case. Too many nurses have been left on duty when obviously unfit, until they broke down completely, and what, if taken in time, should only have meant a short spell in the sick-room, followed by a return to duty, has ended in a severe illness, and perhaps the loss to the Service of a keen and capable nurse. It is only fair to add that there are many hospitals, both at home and abroad, where the staff are well looked after in every way, and that in most the care and medical attention are excellent when once a nurse has been pronounced unfit for duty.

Another discouraging feature of hospital life from the V.A.D.'s point of view is that of all the varied kinds of work now open to women, it probably offers the least chance of promotion. The girl who has been nursing almost from the beginning of the war, though she may have gained excellent reports from every sister and matron under whom she has worked, is practically on the same footing as the girl who joined up yesterday. It is true that V.A.D.s with more than one year's continuous service in a military hospital are now entitled to wear a white stripe on the sleeve, but so far as I can judge, recognition of the stripe as entitling its wearer to more responsible duties is merely optional on the part of hospital authorities. At any rate, the "striped" V.A.D. is not exempt from all the work of scrubbing lockers and cupboards, washing-up, &c., which could be done just as well by entirely untrained labour.

I should like to emphasise that these criticisms of things as they are at present are not intended to deter women from taking up this most necessary work, but merely to point to some weak spots in the system the removal of which would, I think, help recruiting, retain useful workers for the Service, and increase efficiency. It is not to be thought of that our sick and wounded soldiers should suffer for want of any service that we can render them. If in the stress and hurry of a great campaign these alterations in nursing conditions cannot be carried out, it will still be the duty of every woman who can afford it, and is physically and mentally fitted for it, and not engaged in other work of real national importance, to undertake the work. She will find in it many compensations which it would be beyond the scope of this article to speak of.

W. E.

THE HEROISM OF BRITISH NURSES.

The Daily Telegraph of April 20th contains a most thrilling account of the heroism of British nurses in time of danger.

"The silence of the great nursing service which this war has mobilised and developed is at last being broken by the casualty lists," says the writer. "In trains under Zeppelin attacks, on hospital ships, and in open boats, the work that British nurses have done constitutes a chapter that will stand in the proudest annals of the Empire." . . . "Reading several letters from nurses who have been under shell-fire, one is struck by the fact that there is always much more about the expedients to which they had to resort, not only for the safety of their patients, but in the makeshift contrivances they managed when hospital equipment had suffered, than about their personal feelings." In comparing notes, after rescue from a torpedoed ship, continues the writer, the nurses' theme is always the courage the patients had shown in the pain of cramped positions and crowded boats. Their own endurance is simply taken as a matter of course.

The Farm Colony for Women.

Attention has been called more than once in the columns of The Common Cause to the new spirit which—moving everywhere else—has begun to stir us in our treatment of what are called "moral" problems. Probably there is no question on which the point of view of the modern feminist differs so widely from that of a previous generation as the way in which such problems should be handled. The old idea that women alone required all the apparatus of "rescue-work," with its unintended but inevitable conclusion that in women alone is unchastity a gross and grievous sin, is so repugnant to the new woman as to be almost incomprehensible. To her, that which is immoral in a woman is immoral in a man, and morality means a great deal more than one single virtue. I remember reading years ago a remark that "you could not call a man 'almost honest'; you might as well call a woman 'almost chaste.'" We to-day know that a woman (or a man either) may be "almost chaste," for chastity is a condition of the mind, subject to degrees, like other qualities. It is not a physical condition, which simply is or is not.

I believe that "rescue-work" will never be rightly done until it is recognised that all who have made shipwreck need to be "rescued," and that neither the word nor the system should be narrowly confined and rigidly applied to one particular trouble. Boys are not segregated from the world, dressed up in a uniform, and herded together, because they are impure! They are sent to school or reformatory because they are naughty, uncontrollable, and in a fair way to come to permanent grief. Girls should be treated in the same way. We should then be able to "rescue" all who needed help, without creating the old false standard of values.

On just such lines as these Mr. Homer Lane founded his "Little Commonwealth," and the children who go there, whether boys or girls, are there because no one else can do anything with them; not because they have all fallen into one particular sin. The principle seems to me so normal and right that I heard with rejoicing of its adoption by more than one pioneer "rescue" worker. Most hopeful of all, perhaps, is the Training Colony for Women, recently started by Dr. Helen Wilson, Dr. Jane Walker, Miss Wakefield, Miss Shaw, Mr. Homer Lane, and others.

The Training Colony is a place to which women who have come to grief for one cause or another, can go, and start again. Many of them will be "rescue-cases" in the old sense; all of them in the new. But, whatever the cause of shipwreck, here will begin the work of restoration. Perhaps it is because the work will be done for the most part in the open air that one feels such a spring of hope about it. For sick bodies and shattered nerves, nature herself is the great restorer. We should most of us be better for sweating out our evil humors in the sun and wind and rain. For those who have failed in the battle of life, been sodden with drink, stupefied with drugs, or degraded below the level of possible self-respect, it is hard to imagine anything more hopeful. The women of the Colony will find variety of choice, increasing, of course, with the amount of support given to the scheme. Among those suggested are gardening, poultry and bee-keeping, housewifery, weaving, basket and rug-making, dolls' dressmaking, and baby-linen.

In more ways than one, the founders of the Training Colony are adopting the principles of the Little Commonwealth. There are to be hardly any rules, but the spirit of freedom will prevail, and it is believed that these "children of an older growth" will respond to the appeal of love and understanding no less than Mr. Homer Lane's young citizens. These have made a real freedom out of disorder and chaos. Is it not time to extend the experiment?

The founders of the Colony, undaunted by the difficulties of a war-time appeal, have determined at least to try. They have actually started work, but they will want all the help they can get if it is to develop freely. Women and girls from fourteen to forty are eligible for admission, and will, when admitted, take a share in the government of the Colony, and mothers will be allowed to keep their children with them. They will be the "misfits" of life—that will be their claim to admission. "Such a scheme," says Miss Hay Cooper, "whether as practically worked and proved possible in America, or planned in England, speaks for itself. If sufficient support and sympathy be forthcoming to launch the enterprise, a vast forward step will have been taken in the struggle against crime and disease, of incalculable value to generations to come. Human brains and human hearts can be put to no finer use than by patient labour, and infinite resource, to transform the wills of those who have only been able to will ignoble things, and to substitute for the false values, which are all they have ever known, the true values of an ordered life. And yet, when the utmost is said and done, such work is but the tardy discharge of a debt owed by every one of us. It forms an appeal, not only to the generosity of the public, but to its conscience."

A. Maude Royden.

Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene have passed a strong resolution against Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, by which girls under 18 may be sentenced by a magistrate to three years' detention in a State Reformatory on a first conviction for disorderly conduct, without any safeguards as to proper evidence or investigation, and they give as their reasons against this Clause the following:—

"Nearly all the convictions to which Sub-Section 1 of the Clause will apply are under laws which are unequal between the sexes, and unequal between one woman and another. They are not, in practice, applied to men, and they are applied only to some women at the discretion of the police.

"The offences specified in (*a*) and (*b*) are not offences in anyone, except a 'common prostitute.' Prostitution is not a criminal offence, and there is no legal definition of it, nor of a 'common prostitute.' Prosecutions are at the discretion of the police, and almost, if not entirely, rest on police evidence only.

"It would seem that the new Clause introduces an even more indefinite crime, for it includes girls who may be convicted 'of *loitering* or importuning passengers for the purposes of prostitution or solicitation, *or of any other offence of a like nature*.' This sub-section gives magistrates power to impose imprisonment for a period which may be three years or longer for an indefinite offence, without the safeguards as to evidence and investigation required in the case of long sentences inflicted by superior courts for other offences.

"It may be urged that the girl is not imprisoned, but sent to a State Rescue Home. If the girl is to be compulsorily detained until she is nineteen, she will have to be behind bolts and bars, and this is being in a prison whether it is called so or not. The enlightened modern Rescue Workers are coming to believe more and more in the voluntary system, and it is not likely they will become the instruments of a compulsory prison system. The girls may thus have to be committed to Homes of a less humane type, which are likely to have the same hardening effect as prisons.

"There is, moreover, no guarantee that this Clause will not be used as a so-called sanitary measure. Committal is to be at the discretion of the court, and the Association feels no confidence that the court will in all cases be guided only by considerations for the moral welfare of the girl. It seems quite possible that the Clause may, in some instances, be used merely to put away diseased girls in the supposed interests of public health, regardless of the proved uselessness of such methods.

"It has been represented that this detention is not in the nature of punishment, but is a special privilege or protection for the girl. If that is so, why is this protection and training not to be available for her until she has qualified by becoming a 'common prostitute?' Why may not a girl who is convicted of pilfering have the same opportunity? Special privileges for prostitutes are as objectionable as special penalties for them. It is true that the girl who pilfers may be sent to a Borstal institution for a similar period, *but not on summary conviction*; she must first be committed for trial to a higher court. If this opportunity for further trial is proper in the one case, it should be given in the other case also.

"There is much to be said in favour of providing some other place than prison where young offenders may be sent when remanded or committed for trial. But this provision should be available (at the magistrate's discretion) for all young offenders, and not only for those charged with the offences specified in the Bill.

"If this proviso is intended as a safeguard it is valueless. The only way to protect the comparatively innocent from injurious influences is to have wise supervision by an adequate and capable staff. Where such supervision exists hard and fast classification is unnecessary; where it does not exist, classification is no safeguard. There are many girls under twenty-one whose influence may be most dangerous."

The danger that Clause 3 may be "used as a so-called sanitary measure" is clearly proved by the following case reported in the "Weekly Dispatch," of April 22nd. Although compulsory medical examination is not legal, several other cases have been reported in which magistrates have arbitrarily made an order that women should be subjected to it; and should Clause 3 be passed, girls charged with the most indefinite offences may be subjected to a similar outrage.

"A serious blunder, of the sort which will possibly become common enough if Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill becomes law, is reported from Brentford, where two respectable women were arrested, thrown into gaol, and medically examined by order of the magistrates.

"The two women had been to a dance and were returning home. At Hounslow Barracks District Railway Station there was a disturbance, and the police, being called in, seized these innocent women, and charged them with using "insulting words and behaviour"—tantamount to a charge of immorality. Not a shred of evidence was given against this respectable wife of a soldier, with a two-months-old baby, and her companion, a single girl.

"They were sent to Holloway Prison, bail being refused, and ordered by the chairman of the board to be medically examined. The result of this was sufficient to clear their characters, and, as the police witnesses admitted there was no evidence against them, the chairman said he would discharge them *with a caution*.

"No apology for the outrage was made, and only after further evidence had been called as to character would the chairman consent to omit the caution. But still there was no apology."

A REMARKABLE ADVERTISEMENT.

The following letter has been circulated to the Press:—

"I have before me a remarkable advertisement signed by the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage. It has appeared in several London evening papers, and also in a large number of provincial journals. Its inaccuracies and false suggestions appear to me to call for reply.

"While carefully avoiding a direct statement it means nothing unless it means that the Suffrage Societies have violated the political truce and that the present House of Commons is incompetent to deal with questions of Franchise Reform.

"With regard to the first of these implications, it is well known that the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies immediately on the outbreak of war suspended its ordinary political work and concentrated its organisation first on the relief of distress, and later on various activities (of which the Scottish Women's Hospitals is the most important) for sustaining as far as might be the vital energies of the nation.

"We did nothing whatever to raise the question of Women's Suffrage. It was raised, but not by us. It was forced upon the consideration of Parliament by the essential facts of the political situation. First, the stale Register, compiled on facts gathered in 1913, making it a moral impossibility to take a General Election upon it; second, the occupation franchise, under which nearly seven out of eight of the existing electors get upon the register, would, if maintained, render it impossible for thousands, and possibly millions, of the gallant men who have been fighting for us in the various theatres of war, or working for us in munition areas, to qualify in time to take their part in electing the Parliament which will have to deal with problems of reconstruction after the war. A year's occupation previous to July 15th last would be a condition impossible of fulfilment in a vast number of cases. Therefore, far from this Parliament being incompetent to deal with Franchise Reform, it would be a gross dereliction of obvious duty not to deal with it as quickly as possible, and to take steps to put an end to an intolerable situation.

"But it is impossible to devise a new qualification for these men without raising the whole question of Franchise Reform. The suffrage for women has been far more insistently before the country for the last fifteen years than any other branch of the large subject of the representation of the people. The debate on March 28th made it evident that every leader of every party, Conservative, Liberal, Labour, and Irish, whether suffragist or anti-suffragist, recognised that once the question of Franchise Reform was opened, the claims of women would have to be considered. The late Government had tried unsuccessfully to deal with the matter as a mere question of registration. On the occasion, last August, of one of these failures a much respected anti-suffragist, Mr. Walter Long, proposed that the whole question should be considered by a Parliamentary Conference. Not a voice was raised against this, either in the House or out of it. There was a chorus of approval. The Speaker's Conference followed.

"Far from there being any attempt, as the advertisement says in large capitals to RUSH THROUGH PARLIAMENT A CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION, the procedure has been deliberate. The Conference sat for five months, and held twenty-six sittings. It laid its report before the House in February, and on March 28th, by 341 to 62, the Commons recommended legislation on the lines indicated by the Report. We are informed that the Bill is being drafted. Where is the rush?

"The advertisement refers to the fact that this Parliament has twice rejected a Women's Suffrage Bill, but omits to mention that in May, 1911, when it was fresh from contact with the constituencies, it passed the second reading of such a Bill by 255 votes to 88. Moreover, six months earlier, just before the General Election of December, 1910, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, promised on behalf of the Government, if they were still in power, to give facilities in the next Parliament for effectively proceeding with a [Women's Suffrage] Bill, if so framed as to admit of free amendment." This was immediately recognised by political observers who were anxious to oppose both Mr. Asquith and women's suffrage as amounting to a mandate to the Government, if Mr. Asquith remained in power, to bring in a Women's Suffrage Bill. Mr. Asquith did remain in power; and the Parliament then elected still survives, yet a small group of the die-hards of the anti-suffrage movement are now saying that this Parliament is not competent to deal with the subject. Recent events leave little doubt that the present House of Commons is overwhelmingly in favour of women's suffrage, and that in this matter it reflects the general feeling of the country."

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL WILL VOTE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

In a letter to a correspondent in his constituency, Mr. Herbert Samuel announces his intention of voting in favour of the enfranchisement of women on the lines proposed by the Speaker's Conference when the matter comes before the House of Commons. At one time he feared that women did not take sufficient interest in public affairs to make intelligent voters. But he recognises now that "the process which had been going on with ever-increasing speed of bringing women into a full participation in the varied work and thought of the world has been greatly accelerated by the war. Problems of international policy, of defence, of the effects of government action on wages, on prices, on supplies—these and a score of other matters have been brought home to the women of the United Kingdom in the most insistent fashion. Three years of war have taught as much as a whole generation of peace. The effect of the suffrage movement itself has undoubtedly been to enlarge the horizon of women.

"Objections," he continues, "which were real and formidable have lost much of their force. The advantage of women's suffrage, to which I have never been blind, remains. It will help further to raise the status of women, to enlarge their outlook, to enable them to lead fuller lives, to enable them to protect their own interests. Dangers there still are, and must be; but the risk of them seems to me now to be clearly outweighed by the advantage to be anticipated from the change."

"The Common Cause" Hut.

In many munition factories, says a report just issued by the Health of Munition Workers' Committee, the people employed complain of feeling "done up" or "fair whacked." They have worked very long hours, often without a weekly rest.

Who will help us to provide a hut in Coventry where these women and girls can rest and amuse themselves after their hard day's toil?

£868 has already been raised towards the £1,000 needed for the full equipment of the hut, which is being erected in a part of Coventry where it is urgently needed NOW.

We gratefully acknowledge further donations, and deeply appreciate the following kind letter:—

My husband and I much wish to give something towards the Coventry Hut, and as we are unable to send money we send a George III. half-guinea and a ring, in the hope that these may bring in a small sum. We send them to you to sell as you probably know where the best price can be obtained. With every good wish for the speedy completion and useful work of the Hut.—Yours truly,

A. B. & M. F. GOUGH.

WHAT OFFERS?

The ring and coin, which is pierced for wearing as a pendant, can be seen at the office of THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	851	3	5
Pacifist Suffragist, Cheltenham		10	0
Miss A. H. Begbie	1	1	0
Miss Edwards (further don.)...		1	0
Mrs. Bryce		10	0
Miss Margaret E. Scriven ...		5	0
Miss A. E. Smith		2	6
Mrs. Gibson	2	2	0
Miss Lilian Graham		5	0
Mrs. Elizabeth Macdonald ...		10	6
Miss M. F. May		10	0
Anonymous		5	0
Mrs. Stevenson		10	0
Epsom and District Soc. for Women's Suffrage (fur. don.)	5	0	0
Mrs. G. P. Grundy...	1	0	0
Miss K. M. London	2	0	0
Miss R. Wyatt-Smith		10	0
Mrs. Gibbons...		5	0
Mrs. Swaish	1	0	0
Miss L. Dickens		10	0
	£868	0	5

CORRECTION.—Issue April 20th: "Miss Lilian Howell, £10," should have been Miss Lilian Howell, £5; Miss Florence Phipps, £5.

SELLERS WANTED.

On May 11th, as announced in our last issue, the birthday of the Lady of the Lamp is to be celebrated in London by the sale of little lamps, in aid of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals and Women's Service Bureau. The magnificent work of the Hospitals is known to all our readers. An account of one of the many useful undertakings of the Women's Service Bureau (L.S.W.S.) appears on page 27.

Helpers are urgently needed to sell THE COMMON CAUSE on May 11th, and volunteers are asked to communicate with the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
THREE CONFERENCES
ON THE PROBLEM OF PROSTITUTION
Fridays, at 7.30 p.m.
In Council Chamber, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road

APRIL 20th. AN EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM. Miss Sheepshanks *(Chair)*, Miss A. M. Royston, Miss Norah March.

APRIL 27th. A SOCIAL PROBLEM. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence *(Chair)*, Miss Alison Neilans, Miss Margaret Ashton.

MAY 4th. A POLITICAL PROBLEM. Mrs. Swanwick *(Chair)*, Miss Constance Tite, Miss Evelyn Sharp.

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY. Apply to Secretary, W.I.L., 12, Little College Street, S.W. 1., for particulars and tickets: 2/6 course, 1/- single, also free.

CORY BROS. (Surgical Instrument Makers) LIMITED.

British Made Hot-Water Bottles

Best Quality Rubber.

This pattern sent if ordered.

Size In.	Plush, or Flannel Covers, extra Each.	Each.
8 x 6	3/6	10d.
10 x 8	4/6	1/-
12 x 8	4/9	1/3
12 x 10	5/9	1/6

Water Beds, Air Cushions & Invalid Appliances on Hire, and sold on the Hire Purchase System.

Fig. 1253.—Special All-glass Syringe, with Safety Chain, in N.P. Case, 2 needles. Complete from 3/9 each.
All-metal " " 4/6 "

Manufacturers of Hospital and Invalid Furniture, Trusses, Belts, Elastic Stockings, &c.

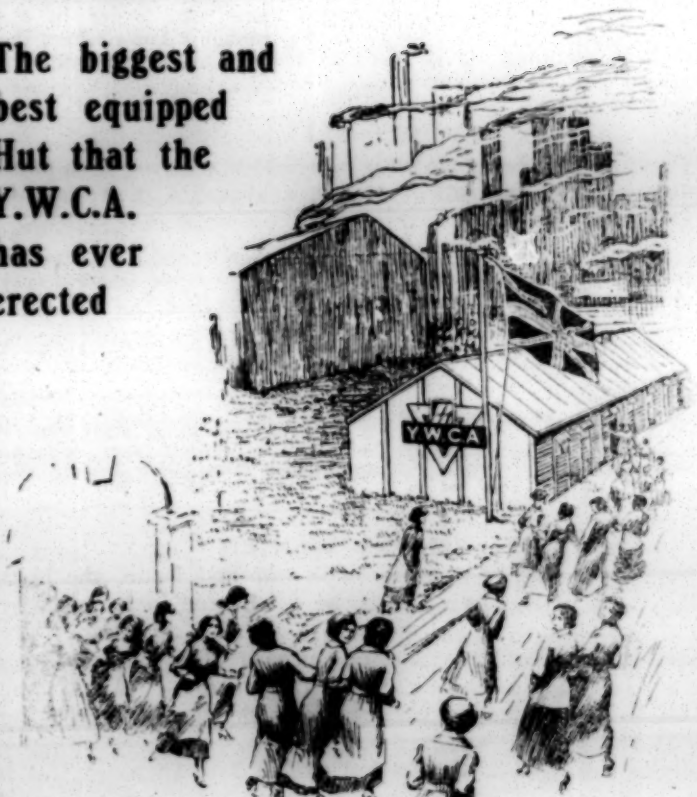
CATALOGUE FREE or Special Estimates

54, MORTIMER ST., LONDON, W.
(Eight Doors from Gt. Portland Street.)

Telephone: Museum 1152-3. Telegrams: "Corybrosim, London."

Only £132 now needed to complete the "Common Cause" HUT

The biggest and best equipped Hut that the Y.W.C.A. has ever erected



If you wish to participate in this great gift to the women and girl munition workers, please send your DONATION this week without fail

Your reward will be the unbounded gratitude of the women and girls who will use the hut, and the knowledge that you are helping in a great national cause.

CHEQUES, POSTAL ORDERS, &c., should be addressed to the Editor of "The Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W. 1.

Dear Madam,
I enclose my "bit" towards "The Common Cause" Hut, viz.:_____
(amount)

Signed_____

Address_____

THE COMMON CAUSE.

14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1. | Price 1d. | Tel. Address: "Homosum, Vic, London."

Telephone: Victoria 7544. | Press Tels.: Office Address.

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representatives, S. R. Le Mare and Miss Frances L. Fuller (West End).*

The Master Key.

Innumerable books dealing with the subjection of women have been written in this country during the fifty years since John Stuart Mill moved his famous amendment in the House of Commons to the 1867 Reform Bill. A glance inside the cover of any such volume which may be available will renew our recollection of the fact that all writers on the subject, in their various methods, fasten upon the economic position of women as vital to their social status. In the fighting countries of the world this position has been altering rapidly since August, 1914, and consequently almost in every one of the belligerent lands questions with regard to the political status of women are agitating the community. When we read that Herr Harden is demanding votes for women in the *Zukunft*, we may take it that even Germany, little as she has loved liberty, may be on the eve of discovering that it is no longer discreet or advisable to sit too heavily upon a safety valve.

The war, with all its woe and suffering pressing upon us, has yet brought to women of these islands an opportunity which they might have vainly sought through decades of peace; they have established in the face of the world an economic position and capacity which have astonished our statesmen, while providing opportunities of gain for the large employer, which must have been as supremely gratifying as it was wholly unexpected. Thus, with an irresistible force born of emergency, women have burst the *tabus* of the centuries as Samson burst the withies which were supposed to hold him defenceless, and enter practically unchallenged upon the political and economic arena.

Their efficiency in that arena is for the future to determine; but we may take it that the position of women in industry is henceforth indissolubly bound up, as indeed it should be, with the position of men, and conditions which are unfavourable to one sex will immediately react disadvantageously upon the other.

There was a little story current in children's literature of mid-Victorian days, which has its bearing upon the present situation. The tale was of a cobbler, who had his stall close to a spot passed by all the children of the neighbourhood on their way to school. This instructive cobbler, hoping to influence for good the young ones who, in succeeding generations, passed his door, wrote above the stall the following legend, which shortly became current in the district:—

"Learn something,
Then you can do something,
Then you can get something,
Then you will possess something."

To the casual reader the conclusion may come as somewhat of an anti-climax; but every line of the distich contains, nevertheless, a precept, or considerations of sound import for the younger women of to-day.

Learn something.—If there is one thing more than another that the great emergency of the war has stamped upon the consciousness of women dealing with questions of employment, it is the conviction that lack of training has been the bitterest handicap of our sex. Upon parents and guardians, upon girls themselves, and young women, the cobbler's precept alike urges the universal importance of training.

Then you can do something.—You cease to be a negligible factor. Life opens out; you should be useful, efficient, needed; not a person vaguely waiting for a chance of possibly becoming of some value. The phrase "superfluous women" was probably invented by a man, who believed himself to be enunciating the idea that women were needed for marriage, or for nothing; but, subconsciously, he was affected by the knowledge that for the most part they have remained (in bulk) untrained and ineffective.

Then you can get something.—The implication is clear. You may become independent. You are nobody's chattel, but commanding for yourself the great issues of life. You may give yourself, if love demands it; or withhold what money never should have the power to buy. What innumerable unfortunate marriages have not women been forced into for maintenance? How often would a penniless girl have been able to marry the man of her choice had she been possessed of small resources of her own?

Then you will possess something.—In the shop of a little second-hand dealer, a customer noticed last year four well-made Victorian chairs, newly polished. On demanding the price, the man said they were sold, and added, confidentially: "Those chairs were bought by two sisters working in the shell factory. They *are* proud of 'em. The eldest said to me, 'We never had a chance before to have anything nice.' They get good money, you see, and they mean to get a home together."

Incontrovertibly, possessions give a person a certain status. Those wholly without means are not a power in the State. Everywhere hitherto women of all classes have been largely dependent, and the poorest members of their little community; consequently of small public importance.

As Suffragists approach the goal of their hopes with regard to the enfranchisement they have striven for, their attention is everywhere becoming more and more engrossed by the complicated questions relating to the position of women in industry after peace is signed. We cannot give these matters too close an attention, for upon their right solution will depend not only the welfare of the industrial worker, but the social happiness and progress of our race.

Mary Lowndes.

The Society of Women Welders.

I.—The Making of a Trade Union.

Welding is an old trade, as old as the knowledge of working metals; but oxy-acetylene welding is a new trade, and one not very widely used in this country before the war. It is, however, rapidly extending, and the process is being used in many workshops and for many diverse functions. The type of work with which the Society of Women Welders is chiefly concerned is that used in aeroplane construction; namely, the welding of sockets and joints, struts, levers, and the parts of the framework of flying-machines. For this work there was, even before the war, a shortage of trained welders. The demand for aeroplanes increased enormously when war broke out, and the shortage became much greater, while the enlistment of numbers of the men who formerly did that work added to the difficulty. Into the breach thus created, women stepped—as they have done in so many other more conspicuous instances—and the story of their fortune in the new trade is one worth the telling.

In July, 1915, Mr. Lloyd George appealed to women to take up munition work. Through August and September thousands upon thousands of women looked in vain for the munition work they were to do. Through October and November the first women found their jobs, but by that time much bitter disappointment had been endured.

The Women's Service Bureau of the London Society for Women's Suffrage bore its share of that disappointment: the long waiting, the eager volunteers, the hopeless confusion that surrounded women's work at that, as at every subsequent, moment, and the very black prospects that so clearly lay ahead of it for the future, aroused much anxiety. Among the women who were promptly responding to the call to work, there were many of exceptional ability. There were women whose hands and brains were those of the natural mechanic; there were women whose love for machines had survived all the discouragement of being females; there were middle-aged women, whose dream of being an engineer was finding fulfilment only through their sons; there was one who confessed, half shamefacedly, that once when her son was away, she had taken his motor-bicycle to pieces and put it together again secretly, and because she loved it. There were all these women; there was much skilled work for them to learn; but there was little prospect that they would ever be given the chance to learn it. There were young, eager women, too, with a living to earn—women who knew that they must have something to last them after the war, and yet who came forward eagerly to do their bit, any temporary bit they could get, regardless of the danger of unemployment ahead of them. All these, on the one hand, and on the other the great munition factories slowly building, and the skilled and semi-skilled and the unskilled men leaving day after day to join the colours. Everyone began to talk of dilution and female labour; women began to be tried, now and then, with hesitation. Could women do this? Could they do that? Would the men let them learn the other? Was their strength equal to it? And their nerves? And what were they to be paid?

To all these questions the last year has given plain answers. In August, 1915, however, the London Society acted without evidence, but in the faith that causes Suffrage Societies to live. Women, they argued, are good, sensible citizens of the State. They are capable of being skilled mechanics, if they get the chance; they are capable of doing hard and responsible work, and they are capable of receiving a man's pay. Fortified by these beliefs, the London Society sought to find a skilled engineering process which women should learn. They sought for one which had a good chance of continuance after the war, and one which was also urgently wanted. They sought for one that women had no opportunity to learn, one that was carried on unquestionably by skilled men, paid at a skilled man's rate, and governed by the clauses of the Munitions Act, and they found all those conditions admirably fulfilled in the process of oxy-acetylene welding.

Having found their trade and their women, and aided by the generous help of some manufacturers of plant, and others, they started a school for women welders at Notting Hill Gate. Miss E. C. Woodward, silversmith and metal worker, was the first to learn the trade in order to become its teacher, and beginning with a stiff text-book, picturesque experiments in her workshop, and a number of lessons from friendly workmen and technical advisers, picking up scraps of information here and there, and working it out for herself, she rapidly became a capable welder and welding instructor.

The school opened in the middle of September, 1915, with twelve pupils, and in December, 1915, the first girls were placed at work with one of the firms that had given help in starting the school. The experiment seemed greatly daring to employers and employed alike, and no one knew quite how it would develop. The girls started work at short hours, and at sevenpence an hour, on the supposition that, though they were well trained, they were not "commercially quick," and on the written statement of the firm that: "Briefly our attitude in the matter is, that for equal work we are at all times prepared to allow equal pay, and that we do not propose to discriminate in any way as between women and men."

It did not take the girls long to show they could attain commercial speed and do reliable work; they received their added penny an hour and were put to work in the same shop as the men, doing the same work and working for the same hours.

During the next two months girls were placed from the school with several firms in the London district, and the fame of the women welders began to spread. Those firms that had them soon saw that it was a suitable women's trade. Their quickness, their deftness, their conscientiousness, and their enthusiasm, were valuable to their employers, and the idea began to take shape that the thing might become, and might remain, a woman's trade. Fortunately, this idea grew simultaneously in the minds of the employed as well as of the employers, so that in the discussions that ensued neither party had a false start. The first matter to come into dispute was, of course, the rate of pay. The girls, after they had been at work for a month or two, claimed a rise above eightpence to ninepence an hour. The new girls, coming in, claimed to start at eightpence. The London Society made no secret of the fact that it expected the firms employing the girls to raise them by fairly quick steps to the tenpence or a shilling an hour that the men were receiving, as they had all originally promised, and the men welders in the shops began to tell the girls they ought to get it.

For the employers it was a very important matter: if it was to be a women's trade in the future, it was all important to them that it should start on a woman's scale—that is to say, with low wages. A rise of twopence an hour, with overtime payments, means over £26 a year extra for each girl, and that means many thousands of pounds to the aeroplane manufacturers. It is little wonder that employers hoped to cut down expenses by employing girls. In every workshop in the land women are doing good work for bad pay, and the employment

of women is a recognised form of retrenchment. It was a case well worth struggling about, for as things start so they continue. The first step taken was to try and enforce a flat rate of eightpence an hour as the maximum of women's wages during the time of the war. Several employers told their welders that they had no intention of paying more than this fixed rate, and in one case the girls were asked to sign a typewritten paper stating that they agreed to work for eightpence an hour for the duration of the war. Girls in the various shops who were in touch with one another decided to call a meeting of women welders to consider how they might best protect themselves; and out of this meeting the Union grew.

Slowly and tentatively the idea of combining together took shape among them, and the first agreement that they reached was that they would not strike. Over all their dispute, important as it was to them and to the future, they recognised the compulsion of war. Whatever happened, they would not hold up the supplies they could control: whatever happened, they would do their work, and would do it well; full work, full time, and as fast and as well as they possibly could. Never before, surely, was a Trade Union founded upon such principles; but it has nevertheless been founded firmly.

When they had decided to band together, to trust each other, and to work together for their common good, and the good of the men they were replacing, the welders decided that they would appeal to Mr. Lloyd George for protection. He had said, and the Munitions Act had established, that women replacing skilled men must by law receive the skilled man's wage, and this, which every newspaper echoed and applauded, was, they thought, their sure defence. With the protection of that Act, strikes would be unnecessary, and to its protection they decided to appeal. The first step of the Society of Women Welders, therefore, after the adoption of provisional rules, and the election of officers, and collection of a small fund for working expenses, was the preparation of a test case for arbitration. The history of the vicissitudes of that test case forms the second part of this article.

R. S.

LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Prince Dolgorovkoss, the General in Command of the Rumanian Front, lately visited Dr. Inglis's hospital at Reni, to confer the medal of St. George for bravery on two of the wounded soldiers. Afterwards he asked to see all the staff of the hospital, and when they had assembled he gave the medal of St. George to each, with the exception of Dr. Laird, who received the Service Medal. She joined the Unit after the retreat in the Dobrudja, and has not yet had the experience of working under fire.

The Motor Transport of the London Units requires £1,000 at once for various necessities, namely:—

A petrol tank (costing about £600).

One hundred and fifty thick blankets, to cover the wounded on stretchers.

Twenty-five Wolseley valises, for use of the *personnel*, who have constantly to sleep in the open in severe weather.

Khaki pillow-cases for stretchers.

Funds are urgently needed, and contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurers, the Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, and equipment to Miss Hoc, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

DONATIONS DURING MARCH.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	28,229	5	8
American and Canadian Collection, per Miss Burke	2,490	5	5
Anonymous (donation) ...	1	5	6
Batty, Mrs. E. (donation) ...		5	0
Bedford College, Collection and Sale of Tickets	25	18	9
Beesley, Mrs. E. M. and Mr. E.		10	0
Bentinck, Lord Henry		10	0
Blane, Mrs.	1	1	0
British School of Archæology in Egypt, per Mrs. Flinders Petrie	19	16	6
Carpenter, Mrs. J. W.		5	0
Carver, Miss M. G.	1	0	0
Collecting Cards:—			
No. 9, per Miss B. Chapman		4	0
No. 10, per Miss G. Chapman		10	0
No. 21, per Miss Douglas ...		10	0
No. 23, per Miss Creswell ...		4	6
No. 28, per Mrs. Sewell ...		1	0
No. 31, per Mrs. E. Martin ...		3	6
No. 34, per Mrs. Vine		1	6
No. 36, per Mrs. E. Minns ...		15	6
No. 37, per Miss Goucher ...		10	0
No. 55, per Miss Binfield ...		13	0
Cowell's Meeting, Mrs.	5	5	0
Deptford Committee W.S.S. ...	2	0	0
Dunkels, Mrs.	3	3	0
Glover, Mrs. Howard	3	0	0
Maddon, Mrs.	1	10	0
Hinde, Mrs. (monthly don.) ...		5	0
Holborn and S. St. Pancras W.S.S., per Mrs. Paul	8	8	6
Letchworth and District W.S.S.	5	0	0
Marshall, Miss D.		5	0
Norland Place School, "Old Girls' Association" bed ...	25	0	0
Orford Village Collection ...	3	18	3
Paine, Miss W. E....		5	0
Paris, Mrs. E.		10	0
Poole, Miss, and Form IIIa. (2nd don.)	1	0	0
Roedean School Collection ...	17	18	9
Roggen, F. G., Esq.	50	0	0
Savory, Mrs. A.	1	1	0
Stracey, Mrs.	10	0	0
Streatfield, Miss L. C.		10	0
Streatham Meeting (half collection)	2	0	5
"The Ocean Staff" (March) ...	2	6	0
Toronto Serbian Relief Fund...	44	15	10
Wandsworth Meeting Collection	1	11	0
White, Per Mrs. F. A., proceeds of entertainment ...	7	14	6
Willis, Per Miss O. (collection)	8	10	0
Women's Patriotic Club (collection)	1	5	0
	£30,980	18	1

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death of Miss Ruth Holden in Russia. All our information has been received by cable, so we have few details.

Our readers will remember that Miss Holden was a native of Massachusetts, and came with a Research Fellowship to Newnham College, Cambridge. She gave up her university work to accompany our first Unit to Russia in January, 1916, and she has worked as assistant to Miss Moberly and as V.A.D. in Petrograd and Chulpanova. In February we were very anxious on hearing that Miss Holden had typhoid fever, but she so far recovered that Mrs. Elborough wrote on March 16th, "Miss Holden is going on satisfactorily, and will go home viâ Siberia as soon as possible. This is on the instructions of her father, and a very good plan, I think." We only received this post-card on April 23rd—the same day on which we heard of her death—but we knew of the plan for her return home, and were thinking of her as safe. On April 16th came a cablegram, "Holden dangerously ill—Meningitis," and on April 23rd we received two cables, sent off on the 20th and 21st respectively, saying, "Holden worse. Knight and Wright with her," and "Holden died, April 8th, Russian" (21st English). We are hoping next week to publish a short account of her life. The sympathy of all will go out to her parents in America.

Dr. Atkinson has left London, preparatory to starting for Russia, but the actual time of her sailing was unknown. We would ask our friends to send us no more gifts of clothes, as we have at present no means of conveyance.

A word of explanation must be given with regard to meetings. Miss Moberly cannot undertake long journeys, nor can she accept engagements for small meetings. She has had no real holiday since her return to England, and must rest before undertaking other work. She is prepared to take important meetings in Scotland in the early summer, and later on in England. She will fit in engagements as far as possible, but her movements are a little uncertain.

G. C.

Further donations should be sent to Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch.

OPENING OF NEW DEPÔT OF SERBIAN RED CROSS.

On April 17th, at 11 o'clock, at impressive ceremony took place at 9, Ennismore Gardens, S.W., the new depôt and workrooms of the Serbian Red Cross. The Lord Mayor of London, the Lady Mayoress, and Sheriffs were present.

It is a Serbian custom to have a religious service to dedicate any new house or the inauguration of any work, and for this reason Father Nikolai Velimirovic conducted a service, assisted by the choir of St. Margaret's, Westminster, who sang, unaccompanied, several beautiful chants. Afterwards, Father Nikolai Velimirovic spoke a few words, and explained that this house would be a *pied-à-terre* for the Serbian colony in London, besides being the place at which Serbian ladies and the friends of Serbia would meet to provide materials for Red Cross work. He called to mind the kindness of the late Lord Mayor in his reception of Serbian refugees, especially of boys, at the Mansion House, at the time when all Serbians were homeless.

The Hon. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross, then spoke, and offered the best wishes of his Society to the Serbian Red Cross. He mentioned the Societies in England which had given help to Serbia, and laid a special emphasis upon the work done by the Scottish Women's Hospitals at her time of greatest need.

M. Jovanovic, speaking in French, in the name of the Serbian nation, thanked all those Societies for the work they had done, and also called attention specially to that of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The Lord Mayor replied, saying that it was an honour for the City of London to have been the means of succouring any part of so brave a nation as the Serbs.

THE DEPUTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

Madam,—I am requested by the Scottish Women's Hospitals Committee to draw your attention to an error in the report of the Deputation to the Prime Minister as given in the issue of the Common Cause for April 7th.

Amongst the list of representatives of various Societies there appears the name of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The fact of the case is this. The Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, being composed of suffrage and non-suffrage members, had considered it inexpedient to send a representative, but by the kind co-operation of Mrs. Fawcett it was arranged that in the course of her speech as leader of the Deputation, reference should be made to the important work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals abroad.

Hoping that you will kindly give space in your valuable columns to this correction.

Edith A. May,
Organising Secretary.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Violet Eustace.
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary)
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary:
Miss Edith Stopford.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

The Information Bureau.

The N.U. Information Bureau makes every effort to send prompt and thorough replies to enquiries on all kinds of subjects. It is specially valuable to Suffrage speakers and writers.

Annual subscription, 1 guinea.

Single enquiries: to Secretaries of N.U. Societies, 6d.; to individuals or societies not affiliated to the N.U., 1s.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916 ...	1,076	10	3
Received from April 16th to 21st, 1917:—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Miss R. M. Elwin, Shanghai...	2	0	
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Carlisle W.S.S., Wigton Branch (additional)	2	9	
Leeds W.S.S.	2	11	9
York W.S.S.	10	6	
Church Stretton W.S.S.	6	0	
Nottingham W.S.S.	1	11	3
Southampton W.S.S.	1	1	0
Lancaster W.S.S.	10	0	
Clitheroe W.S.S.	6	0	
Solihull W.S.S.	12	6	
Crick W.S.S.	5	0	
Cirencester W.S.S.	6	6	
Maryport W.S.S.	9	0	
Shildon W.S.S.	5	0	
	£1,085	9	11

IMPORTANT.

Postal Orders should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

Treasury Notes should be treated like coins, and *always* registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the Secretary, or to Miss Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

The Manchester Federation has sent word that they have fourteen diaries with elastic band and two plain linen diaries still unsold. Will those ladies who applied to the Literature Department for diaries, only to be told that the Department had none left, kindly send for any they may still want to Mrs. Thoday, 20, Kenworthy's Buildings, 83, Bridge Street, Manchester, who will be glad to forward copies. Diaries with elastic bands are one shilling and twopence; those without, one shilling. Postage, 1d.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service.

Further subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per List to April 13th, 1917	198,277	12	6
Further donations received to April 19th, 1917:—			
*Miss Constance B. Thresher	2	10	0
*Senior Girls' Class, Montrose Street Congregational Church Sunday School, Glasgow, per Miss Jean White		7	6
Secondary School, Woodhouse, Sheffield, per John Buckley, Esq., Headmaster	5	0	0
Comrie Parish War Emergency Committee, per John P. Mitchell, Esq. (£19 10s.), Mrs. Mayall (10s.)	20	0	0
*Balance of subscriptions collected at the Divisional Office, Warrington, per Miss E. Hobson	8	17	10
Share of War Boxes Fund, from Strathbungo Parish Church, per W. Tully, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Junior Box, 22 for Serbian Red Cross Fund		2	6
Women's Club, the University, Birmingham, per Miss Marion Poole, Pres.	2	2	0
*Penny Collection, Greenock (Corsica) (2nd week), per Miss Etta Shankland	31	7	5
Lancaster Branch W.S.S., per Miss Edith Mellor, Hon. Treas.	1	1	0
Miss G. N. Armfield		10	0
*Cupar W.S.S., per Miss A. B. Innes, Hon. Treas., result of Jumble Sale (£20), cons. from W.S.S. (£5), to endow "Cupar, Fife" bed (Corsica)	25	0	0
*First Instal. from Western Tour, per Miss Kathleen Burke, per Messrs. J. P. Morgan, per Messrs. Morgan & Grenfell & Co....	1,000	0	0
*Per Miss Bury: Mrs. Hamilton (£4), Collection at Lecture in East U.F. Church, Galashiels (£12 6s. 11d.), Employees Peter Anderson (£1 3s. 6d.), Employees A. L. Dickson (£5 16s. 7d.)	25	7	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (62nd sub.) (£2 8s. 5d.), Employees Messrs. Portland Forge Co., Ltd. (19th sub.) (£1 14s. 5d.)	4	2	10
J. Innes Dick, Esq.	5	5	0
*Workers at St. Mirren's Engine Works, per Wm. Martin, Esq., Messrs. Fishers, Ltd., per Miss Etta Shankland	3	10	0
*Readers of the Glasgow *Evening News*, per John S. Samuel, Esq.	9	0	0
Com. of the Echt Free Gift Sale, per F. F. Garden, Esq.	10	0	0
British Isles Booth, Chicago Allied Bazaar, per Mrs. S. Insull, per Manager, Lloyds Bank, Ltd.	1,500	0	0
Wallacetown Parish Church, per Rev. John S. Robertson...	5	0	0
*George Lauder, Esq., Pittsburgh, per Mrs. Lauder (Serbia)	50	0	0
Edinburgh Ladies' College War Fund, per Dr. D. C. McIntosh, to name "Edinburgh Ladies' College French Club" bed (Royaumont) (6 months) ...	25	0	0
Collected in Victoria Park Sabbath School, per Miss Mary A. B. Whytock, Treas....	1	0	7
"In Memoriam," April 17th, 1911, Mrs. F. H. James ...		10	0
*B.W.T.A., Edinburgh, per Miss Lockhart, Hon. Treas., for B.W.T.A. Motor Ambulance at Royaumont	25	0	0
Wm. Templeton, Esq.	5	5	0
*Proceeds of the "Thistle No. 8," per Master Wm. Roy Farmer		9	0
*Third Share of Sale of Calf, per Farmers' Free Gift Sale, per A. Douglas Murray, Esq.	10	2	0
	£201,057	2	2

Supplementary List.

subscribers to the "Margaret" beds, in Corsica and Salonica.

Miss Margaret Coats (£10), Mrs. Cowan (£5 5s.), Miss Margaret B. Johnstone (£5), Mrs. J. Reid (£5), Margaret M. Paterson (£5), Margaret Hall (£5), M. C. Whimcrah (£5), Mrs. Black and Margaret Chambers (£5), Dr. A. D. Fleming (£3 3s. 6d.), Margaret C. Tullis (for two Margarets) (£3), Miss Henderson (£2 2s. 6d.), Mrs. Margaret Cooper (£2), Mrs. Meta Nicholson (£2), Mrs. Underhill (£2), M. A. M. Grogor (£2), Lady Mackie (£2), Mrs. Marjorie Crawford (£2 0s. 6d.), Miss Gifford (£2), "E.A.W." (£1 10s.), Mrs. M. H. Beveridge (£1 10s.), Mrs. A. J. Simpson (£1 5s.), Mrs. Hood (£1 1s.), Mrs. Stewart (£1 1s.), John C. Bathgate, Esq. (£1 1s.), Mrs. Margaret Jameson (£1 1s.), Mrs. Margt. T. G. Houghton (£1 1s.), Mrs. Rita Rankine (£1 1s.), Mr. and Mrs. Laidlaw (£1), Mrs. Watson (£1), Mrs. Hay (£1), Two Margarets (Ladyrig) (£1), Miss Duff (£1), Mr. Hogarth (£1), J. Ronald Fleming, Esq. (£1), Miss Tait (£1), Miss Inglis (£1), Margt. H. W. Gillan (£1), Miss Margaret Thomson (£1), Margaret Carruthers (£1), Mrs. Lyal (£1), Mrs. Walker (£1), Mrs. Tully (£1), Miss Margaret Tully (£1), "I. M. A. Mother," Margaret Mitchell (£1), Miss Margt. H. Ritchie (£1), Mrs. Speid (£1), Miss Margaret Bartie (£1), Patrick Gifford, Esq. (£1), Miss Margt. F. Sprout (£1), Greeta (£1), Margt. M. Balfour (£1), Margaret Lillie Craft (£1), Mrs. Margaret L. Murison (£1), Mrs. Symington (£1), Mrs Margaret Cathels (£1), Margt. C. Gowans (£1), "One of the Margarets" (Lanark) (£1), Mrs. Margt. A. Murray (£1), Mrs. Bromfield (12s. 6d.), Mrs. Mather (10s.), Mrs. Hogarth (10s.), J. Watson, Esq. (10s.), Miss Boaryman (10s.), Miss Peggie Pearson (10s.), Mrs. Davidson (10s.), Miss Johnstone (10s.), Mrs. R. Croall (10s.), "I. M. A Margaret" (10s.), Mrs. Kirkwood (10s.), Mrs. Michael Kerchester (10s.), Miss Anna Scott (10s.), Mrs. Leven (10s.), Margt. McDonald (10s.), Mrs. T. J. C. Gifford (10s.), Mrs. MacTier (10s.), Margaret Horn (10s.), Miss Bertram (10s.), Miss Macnab (10s.), Mrs. Margaret Stuart (10s.), Mrs. Hay (10s.), Mrs. Otto (10s.), "A Margaret" (Musselburgh) (10s.), Mrs. Macdonald (10s.), Mrs. Angus Torr (10s.), Mrs. Margt. Clark (10s.), Mrs. Marjorie Durie (10s.), Mrs. Margt. McConnochie (10s.), Miss Margt. Nicholson (10s.), Miss Brown (10s.), Mrs. Mercer (10s.), "A Margaret" (Richmond) (10s.), Margt. Bethune Duncan (10s.), Miss Gifford (10s.), "Another Margaret" (Penicuik) (10s.), Mrs. Brown Penpont (10s.), Miss Margt. A. Marr (10s.), Agnes Marshall (10s.), Mrs M. R. McLeod (10s.), M. Watson, Esq. (10s.), M. H. Geddes-McLaughlan, Esq. (10s.), Mrs. Hutchison (10s.), M. Morton, Esq. (10s.), "For sake of M.E.M., a dear girl" (10s.), Mrs. Margt. Moncrieff (10s.), Mrs. Macpherson-Smith (10s.), Mrs. Margt. Nicholson (10s.), J. Marjorie Lindsay-Prenderguest (10s.), Margaret (10s.), Mrs. E. A. Bourne (10s.), Margt. N. Barber (10s.), Miss M. Young (10s.), Margt. Weigall (10s.), Mrs. Darmady (10s.), Mrs. McC. H. (W.S. Expenses) (8s.), Mrs. Watson (7s. 6d.), Margt. B. Munro (7s. 6d.), Miss A. B. Mechie and Niece Margaret (6s.), "I. M. A Meg." (5s. 6d.), Mrs. Rutherford (5s.), Miss Paton (5s.), Miss Douglas (5s.), Mrs. Bowdler (5s.), Miss Margt. Ogilvie (5s.), Miss Mein (5s.), Miss Smith (5s.), Miss Pearl Service (5s.), Miss Madge Laing (5s.), Miss Pearl Stevenson (5s.), Mrs. Saunderson (5s.), Margaret Saunderson (5s.), Miss Reid (5s.), Mrs. A. Stevenson (5s.), Miss Wilda Ferreira (5s.), Mrs. smith (5s.), M. Nichol (5s.), Mrs. Christie (5s.), Mrs. Taylor (5s.), "I. M. A. Mother" (5s.), Margt. B. Duff (5s.), Margt. Thomson (5s.), Miss Turnbull (5s.), Miss Margt. Pringle (5s.), Miss M. G. Thomson (5s.), Margt. Scougal (5s.), Miss M. H. Crook (5s.), Miss Marjorie A. Turnbull (5s.), Miss Margt. Y. Lorimer (5s.), Miss Rita Barber (5s.), Miss M. F. Anderson (5s.), Miss J. W. Purves (5s.), Margt. Cowers

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Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Oldham" (Royaumont) (further six months)	Per Miss M. Cattrall.
"Birmingham Burns Club" (Salonica and Dr. Bennett's Unit) (further six months each)	Per Robt. Mackenzie, Esq., Hon. Treas., Birmingham Burns Club.
"Charles Loudon" (Royaumont) (further six months)	Miss Loudon, per Edinburgh W.S.S.
"Queen Margaret College" (Royaumont) (further six months)	Per Miss M. C. Morrison.
"Bridge of Weir" (Corsica) (renewed six months)	Per Miss M. C. Morrison.
"Rabbie Burns" (Salonica) (further six months)	Troon W.S.S., per Miss M. C. Morrison.
"Hugh William Walker" (Salonica) (further one year)	Messrs. John Walker, Sugar Refiners, Greenock.
"Plymouth" (Corsica) (further three months)	Per Mrs. M. Ramsay and Dr. Mabel Ramsay, North Hill, Plymouth.
"Devon" (Corsica) (further three months)	Per Mrs. M. Ramsay and Dr. Mabel Ramsay, North Hill, Plymouth.
"Cornwall" (Corsica) (further three months)	Per Mrs. M. Ramsay and Dr. Mabel Ramsay, North Hill, Plymouth.
"Leven and District" (3) (Salonica and Royaumont) (2 for six months and 1 for one year)	Leven W.S.S., per Mrs. Reid.
"Dornoch" (Royaumont) (further six months)	Per Mrs. Campbell, Dornoch, Sutherland.
"Canaan Park College" (2) (Royaumont and Salonica) (further six months)	Per Miss J. Dick, Canaan Park College, Edinburgh.
"Emma Curtis" (Royaumont) (further six months)	Miss Emma Curtis, Greenock.
"Bingley" (Corsica) (renewed six months)	Per Miss Mary Morton, Ackland Hall Training College, Bingley.
"Gala" (1st instal., six months)	Per Miss Bury.
"The Madras Artists" (six months)	Per Mrs. Mansell Young, Asansol, Bengal.
"St. Andrew's Church, Madras" (six months)	Per Mrs. Mansell Young, Asansol, Bengal.
"Yorkshire Margaret" (Corsica) (further one year)	Per Mrs. Fleming, Kelso W.S.S.
"Kelso Margaret" (2 beds) (Salonica) (further one year)	Per Mrs. Fleming, Kelso W.S.S.
"Marjorie" (1st instal.) (six months)	Per Mrs. Fleming, Kelso W.S.S.
"Cupar, Fife" (Corsica) (renewed 6 months)	Cupar W.S.S., per Miss A. B. Innes, Treas.
"Edinburgh Ladies' College French Club" (Royaumont) (6 months)	Per Edinburgh Ladies' College War Fund.

Details of Miss Kathleen Burke's Donations of £668 10s. 11d.

Meetings Held in Chicago.

	Dollars.		Dollars.
Cash collected at Mr. Meeker's residence	134.00	Mrs. E. H. Bennett	25.00
Cross, Roy & Saunders	250.00	Mrs. Robert Gardner	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Forgan	250.00	George Higginson, Junr.	25.00
Mrs. Arthur Ryerson	250.00	Walter R. Kirk	25.00
Mr. Arthur Meeker	250.00	Mrs. Gustavus Swift, Junr.	25.00
Mrs. Martin Ryerson	250.00	John Griffiths	25.00
Wolf, Sayer & Heller	250.00	Mrs. William R. Linn	25.00
David R. Forgan	125.00	D. M. Ryerson	20.00
Mrs. Thomas R. Lyon	125.00	Mrs. Harry Channon	15.00
John Clay & Co.	100.00	Miss Marie Josephine Roset	10.00
John A. Spoor	100.00	Ambrose C. Cramer	10.00
Edward F. Swift	100.00	Mrs. R. T. Newberry	10.00
John J. Mitchell	100.00	Miss Carrie B. Neely	10.00
Mrs. R. A. Waller	100.00	Mrs. Marion D. McCormick	10.00
Miss G. Jones	100.00	Mrs. William Blair	10.00
Mrs. Elizabeth G. Beale	50.00	Mrs. Bruce Borland	10.00
Mrs. Chauncey Keep	50.00	Mrs. L. H. McCormick	10.00
Mrs. R. B. Gregory	50.00	Mrs. Frederic Eames	5.00
Mrs. Martha Wilson	50.00	Mrs. E. L. Conger	5.00
Mrs. P. C. Stanwood	25.00	Mr. Cornelia Conger	5.00
Mrs. J. E. Jenkins	25.00		$3,189.00
Mr. George Packard	25.00		

Details of Miss Kathleen Burke's Donations of £266 17s. 4d.

	Dollars.		Dollars.
Deposit, Anonymous	10	Deposit, C. H. Schweppe	50
„ Russell Tyson, per Miss Burke	25	„ Bond Men's Club, per W. S. Brewster, Treas.	1,000
„ Frederick J. Haskell, per Miss Burke	200		$1,285

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

The Bangor and District Women's Suffrage Society forwarded the following Memorial to the Premier on the occasion of the introduction of the Speaker's recommendations on electoral reform:—

"Sir,—We, the undersigned, being electors in your constituency, beg to thank you cordially for your support and advocacy of Women's Suffrage.

"We urge the necessity of enfranchising women in any proposed electoral reform brought forward during the war, so that they shall take part in the election of the Parliament which will deal with the problem of reconstruction immediately after the war."

The number of signatures appended to the petition, all of men of public standing, was ninety-seven. A specially gratifying point was the number of men who declared a complete change of mind on the question of votes for women.

The organisers were the Executive Committee of the Bangor Women's Suffrage Society, who thank all those gentlemen who supported their efforts.

Redditch.—A members' meeting was held on April 18th, at 8 o'clock, at the Masonic Hall, Redditch. Mr. H. A. Pearson took the chair, and Miss Williams, Federation Secretary, gave an address on the present situation of the Suffrage question. About thirty members and others were present, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting urges the necessity of the immediate enfranchisement of women, so that the Parliament which deals with the problems of reconstruction may be representative of women as well as men."

Birmingham. — Under the National War Savings Committee, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham called a representative meeting at the Council House on April 20th, at which Mrs. Yorke Fawcett spoke on behalf of the Food Control Campaign.

Two Committees to deal with the question of Food Economy in Birmingham were appointed: an Advisory Committee consisting of fifteen men and one woman, on which Professor Ashley will sit; and an Executive Committee, consisting of twelve men and ten women, including the two Women Councillors now serving on the Birmingham Council.

One of the women on this Committee was elected as the representative of the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society.

Falmouth Society held its annual meeting on April 16th, at 3.30 p.m., in the Garden Room, Wodehouse Place, when there was a small attendance. Miss J. H. Genn presided; the Hon. Secretary read the report, and the Hon. Treasurer presented the balance-sheet, showing receipts £15 5s. 6d., expenditure £8 13s., balance £6 12s. 6d. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting welcomes the decision of the Government to include provisions for the enfranchisement of women in the Electoral Reform Bill, and believes that its speedy passing into law will be for the good of the men and women of the nation."

It was resolved to send a donation to N.U. Headquarters for the 1917 Franchise Fund.

Holt.—A very successful Jumble Sale was held, on April 12th, in the National Schools, Holt, in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. There were twelve stalls in all; several stalls of women's and children's clothes, also men's clothes, hats, boots and shoes. Oddments, books, farm and garden produce, and a bran tub; also a tea room, where excellent teas could be had for 3d. and 6d. Plenty of buyers came, and in all £33 was taken at the sale. Donations in money and a collection taken in the Wesleyan Church, Holt, on Good Friday accounted for another £9, so that with this Holt has completed £100 and can endow two "Holt" beds for Serbians for a year. The Committee of Holt W.S.S. are glad to take this opportunity of thanking all friends in Holt and elsewhere who have contributed money, goods, or help to the Jumble Sale and thus ensured its success.

Cupar-Fife.—A Jumble Sale, in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, was held in the Drill Hall, Castlehill, on the afternoon of Saturday, April 7th. The hall was crowded with buyers. The sale only lasted an hour and a-half, but the amount raised amounted to over £20.

The Kentish Federation has been fortunate in securing Mrs. Percy Thomson as President, in the place of Lady Brassey, who has retired.

Blackheath and Greenwich.—On Monday, April 16th, a successful drawing-room meeting was held at 36, Shooter's Hill Road, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Mackern. The chair was taken by Lady Dyson, and Dr. Alice Benham gave a very cheery account of her experiences and work in Russia with the Millicent Fawcett Unit.

Miss I. T. Armstrong, a member of the Blackheath Branch, spoke briefly on the present position of Women's Suffrage. By the Sale of Provisions earlier in the afternoon, and a collection, it is hoped that at least £5 5s. may be sent to the Unit. Mrs. Mackern proposed a breezy and appreciative vote of thanks to Dr. Alice Benham, which was heartily endorsed by all present. Many questions were asked, and over a very generous "war" tea interest never flagged.

Liverpool and District Branch.

On February 6th, 1917, a Branch of the Scottish Women's Hospitals was started in Liverpool for "Liverpool and District." The Liverpool Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies very generously offered to share their office at 9, Catharine-street with the Organiser, Miss Irene Curwen, who was sent by Headquarters to raise funds for the Hospitals.

The Executive Committee, of which Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown is Chairman, immediately set about forming an influential and representative General Committee with the support, as Patrons, of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Earl and Countess of Sefton, the Very Reverend the Lord Bishop of Liverpool, His Grace Archbishop Whiteside, Baron A. Pallu de la Barrière, French Consul in Liverpool.

Mr. Alexander Guthrie, as Chairman of the General Committee, presided at a meeting of the Committee held in the Town Hall, by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, on March 13th. The speakers at this meeting were Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.A., C.C., Rev. Alexander Connell, M.A., and Col. J. P. Reynolds. The proposal that a Branch of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service should be started in Liverpool and District was received with enthusiasm by those present, and congratulations were offered that donations exceeding £1,200 had been received or promised already.

Mr. John Rankin, who is a member of the Committee, very generously promised to give the last £50 required to complete the first £3,000 raised. As Mr. Rankin had already given £100 towards the Fund, his generosity was much appreciated. The £3,000 was reached on Saturday, April 14th, and it is hoped that the Fund so well begun will increase steadily, as the money is urgently needed.

Any communications to this Branch of the Scottish Women's Hospitals should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. H. Rivers Pollock, 9, Catharine Street, Liverpool, and donations should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Sir James Hope Simpson, Bank of Liverpool Ltd., 7, Water Street, Liverpool.

Estd. 1895. **WICKS'** Estd. 1895.

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Manchester and District.

In reply to a letter from the Hon. Sec. of the Manchester and District W.S.S., Mr. J. Wood, M.P. for Stalybridge, reaffirms his belief in women's suffrage. "I have always," he writes, "consistently supported and voted in favour of such a measure. As a matter of fact, I am of opinion far more strongly than ever after the truly splendid manner in which women have come to the front since the war began, that they are entitled to the vote, and I should be sorry to think that any of them look upon me as in any sense an opponent of women's suffrage because I happened to give a vote on an entirely different issue."

Mr. Wood explains that he did not vote against Mr. Asquith's resolution on Wednesday, April 4th, but supported an amendment deprecating a Bill on such a tremendous question as Electoral Reform at a time like the present. However, the majority of the House of Commons thought differently, the amendment was defeated, and Mr. Asquith's resolution was then passed without division as we had made our protest.

Sellers are wanted for Lamp Day, May 11th, and are asked to communicate with Miss Morris, The London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street.

Forthcoming Meetings.

APRIL 27.

Rotherham—Assembly Rooms—Chairman: Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher—Speakers: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Leathes. 7.30 p.m.

Sunderland—Annual Meeting—Hostess: Mrs. Walford Common, 4 Bedford Road—Speaker: Mrs. Renton, on "Women and Electoral Reform"—Chair: Miss Milbanke. 7.30 p.m.

APRIL 30.

Birmingham—Aston Brook—Speaker: Mrs. Knight 5 p.m.

Lewisham—44, Granville Park, Blackheath—Social Meeting in the hope of interesting people in the Scottish Women's Hospitals and Women's Service, as represented by Lamp Day—Hon. Sec., Miss M. Ethel Denny. 7—10 p.m.

London—15, Upper Phillimore Gardens, W.—Hostess: Miss Shaen—Mr. Holford Knight, on "Women and the Legal Profession"—Chairman: Mrs. Ford Smith. 5.30 p.m.

London—40, Comeragh Road, Kensington—Hostess: Miss Henniker—Women's Service and Lamp Day—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram. 5.30 p.m.

MAY 1.

Bolton—Annual Meeting, the Congregational Schools, St. George's Road, 7.30, followed by Public Meeting—Chair: Rev. C. Flower, M.A.—Speakers: Miss Esther Roper, Mrs. Thoday. 8 p.m.

MAY 2.

Accrington—Public Meeting on the Political Situation—Chairman: G. W. Belsey, Esq.—Speakers: G. G. Armstrong, Esq., Councillor Davies, A.W.C.E., Mrs. Annot Robinson.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party. 3—5 p.m.

London—London School of Economics—Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 8 p.m.

MAY 3.

Birmingham—Bradford Street—Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 3 p.m.

MAY 8.

London—8, Palace Green, Kensington—Hostess: Mrs. Claude Montefiore—Mrs. Wilkins, Chairman of the Women's Land Service Corps, on "The Work of Women on the Land, and Their Place in Agricultural Reconstruction"—Chairman: Miss Palliser. 5.30 p.m.

MAY 9.

London—Lady Sassoon, "At Home." 46, Grosvenor Street—Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 3.30 p.m.

MAY 10.

Norwich—Annual Meeting, Canon Abbey—Hostess: The President, Mrs. James Stuart—Mrs. Corbett Ashby will speak on the Political Situation. 5 p.m.

Scottish Hospital Meetings.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2nd, 8 p.m.—London School of Economics—Speaker: Miss May Curwen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th, 4.30 p.m.—Lady Sassoon "At Home"—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield.

The new session of the Association of Advertising Women opened on Monday evening, April 2nd, with a very interesting lecture from Mr. E. S. Daniells on Radium and its use commercially as applied to Radiolite watches. Mr. Daniells described in detail the composition of radium, and told of its discovery by Mme. Curie. She had the honour of first preparing pure radium, though many other explorers were in the field.

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All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Association of Advertising Women.—Meeting, May 7th, Connaught Rooms, 8 p.m.—Speakers, Mr. E. B. Osborn and Mr. Frank Souter (of the British Empire Union), on "How British Women Can Help to Build up British Industries cordially invited. Full particulars from Secretary, A.A.W., Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-st., W.C.

FOR "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

For sale for "The Common Cause" Hut.—A George III. half-sovereign loop attached, and gold ring set with five turquoise, gipsy setting. What offers?—Can be seen at The Common Cause Office, 14, Great Smith-st., S.W. 1.

POSITION WANTED.

Gentlewoman, middle-aged, rather deaf, offers services to blind or invalid lady in return for companionship. Would pay for board. References exchanged.—Miss Tourtel, 54, Winchester Villas, Hove, Sussex.

POSITIONS VACANT.

Experienced (Lady) Book-keeper required, take charge, Estate office, Southport; enter books, receive callers, and deal with rents and correspondence.—State qualifications, testimonials, and salary required to Box 6,506, Common Cause Office.

(Continued on page 32

Continued from page 31

RELIABLE Working Housekeeper required; two in family; must understand vegetarian cooking.—Apply Mrs. Rose, The Chestnuts, Grosvenor-road East, St. Albans.

IMMEDIATE vacancy for Resident Cookery Pupil.—Apply the Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. 1

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AN excellent undeveloped business in Ladies' Hairdressing and Babies' hand-made Frocks, &c. Suitable one or two ladies. Hairdressing may be closed, worked separately, or terms include tuition. Established connection. Owner can give good reasons for selling. Price about £250.—Apply Box 6,599, Common Cause Office.

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£50 PRIZE.—Send postage (twopence) for particulars and copy of "How to Make Money With Your Pen" (learn to earn by writing) to Craven Press, 32, Craven-st., Strand, London.

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GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training to suit present crisis; vegetable, fruit, and flower culture, fruit bottling and jam making; healthy out-door life; individual consideration; long or short courses.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

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